

*Express Mail Certificate No. EV292457404US*

*Date of Deposit: April 16, 2004*

**DOCKET NO.: D0590.70011US02**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Plaetinck et al.  
Serial No: Not Yet Assigned  
Confirmation No: ---  
Filed: Herewith  
For: CHARACTERISATION OF GENE FUNCTION USING  
DOUBLE STRANDED RNA INHIBITION  
  
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

---

**MAIL STOP Patent Application**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2  
of this amendment.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this amendment.